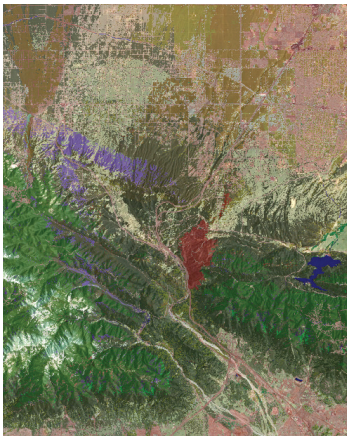
LAND COVER
National Inventory of Vegetation and Land Use

GAP
USGS GAP ANALYSIS PROGRAM



The Gap Analysis Program (GAP) National Land Cover includes data on the vegetation and land use patterns of the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. It combines land cover data generated by regional GAP projects with LANDFIRE data.

The sources for the Land Cover data all use similar base satellite imagery, classification systems and mapping methodologies, allowing for the creation of a seamless national land cover map at 30 meter resolution. The map legend is based on NatureServe's Ecological Systems Classification which describes vegetation communities at a higher level of thematic detail than has ever before been uniformly mapped across the country.

The Land Cover data set can be downloaded from the GAP website: http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov

Learn more about the National GAP Land Cover product, gap analysis, and other available data including protected areas (PAD-US) and species distributions at the GAP website.

National GAP land cover is published by the **USGS Gap Analysis Program (GAP)**. GAP produces data and tools that help meet critical national challenges such as biodiversity conservation, renewable energy development, climate change adaptation, and infrastructure investment.

Key Features

- High spatial resolution of the data allows for mapping of rare and small patches of vegetation, which are frequently of importance to wildlife.
- Seamless nature of map allows for the calculation of summary statistics for any user-defined boundary.
  - Data is available for viewing and download from GAP's National Land Cover online viewer, which includes vegetation range maps and descriptions for each of the six tiered levels of vegetation.
  - The Ecological Systems have been crosswalked to the National Vegetation Classification Standard (NVCS). This tiered classification system allows users to select from six levels of thematic detail.

Uses of National GAP Land Cover

- Identify the types of vegetation in a particular state or assessment unit
- Explore relationships between vegetation types, andelevation, soils, slope, and aspect.
- Use as input into wildlife habitat, hydrologic, land use, conservation planning, and climate change models.
- Use as baseline from which to measure the impacts of climate change on vegetation.
- Overlay with protected areas data (PAD-US) to identify ownership and protection status of vegetation types.

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For more information on National GAP Land Cover, contact Anne Davidson (208-885-3720, adavidson@uidaho.edu) or Alexa McKerrow (919-513-2853, amckerrow@usgs.gov)